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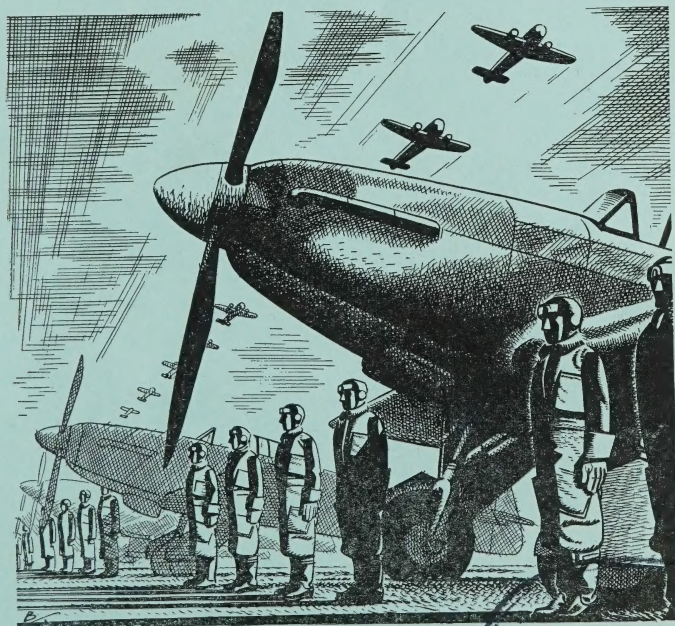
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CANADA AT WAR

No. 15

June, 1942



SUPPLEMENT TO BOOKLET No. 132

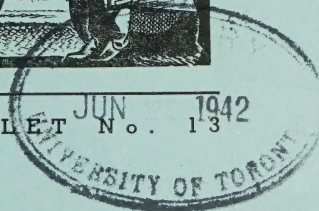


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| <i>Booklet No. 15 is a supplement to No. 13, which was a survey of Canada's part in the war to April 1, 1942. It contains outstanding developments for the month to June 1, and should be used with No. 13 and supplement No. 14 to obtain a cumulative record of Canada's war effort.</i> | |

Link Air Training Plans

AS A result of the Ottawa Air Training Conference, Canada will be a member of the combined air training committee which is to be established in Washington, with its head an American as yet unnamed. The committee, of which Canada, Great Britain and the United States are members, will facilitate the exchange of information on air training and it will advise on the standardization of air training methods and the most effective use of the training facilities on the North American continent.



While the other United Nations will not be members of the committee, they will have the privilege of sending observers to the regular meetings of the body.

The conference was held in Ottawa in May with the representatives of 14 United Nations in attendance. Ottawa was chosen as the meeting place largely in recognition of the achievements of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. In a message to the conference, President Roosevelt referred to Canada as "The Airdrome of Democracy."

In addition to the partners of the B.C.A.T.P., Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia, representatives were present from Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Yugoslavia and the United States.

Many aspects of air training were studied and a great deal of valuable technical information and experience was exchanged by the delegates.

Airdrome of Democracy

ON JULY 1 a new British Commonwealth Air Training Plan agreement will go into effect. It will expire March 31, 1945, and this period of operation is expected to cost the partners to the plan \$1,500,000,000. Canada's share of the total will be \$750,000,000.

Considered one of the Dominion's most important contributions to the United Nations war effort, the Air Plan has been expanded considerably since it was first conceived. The original plan, which started on December 17, 1939, and was to end March 31, 1943, was to cost \$600,000,000, of which Canada's share was \$350,000,000. The estimated cost of the expanded plan was to be \$824,000,000, and Canada was to pay \$542,000,000 of this amount.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan far exceeded its original objectives. The aircrew graduates of the Canadian training schools are providing much of the manpower of Britain's bombing fleets, as well as of fighter, reconnaissance and army co-operation squadrons.

To Train More Men

Under the new program the same four Commonwealth nations will continue the B.C.A.T.P. on a greatly increased scale. Many more men will be trained. Australia and New Zealand will send as many trainees as possible, keeping in mind the needs of defence at home. Canada will still supply a substantial proportion of the recruits. The quota of the United Kingdom will be considerably increased and will include men from other parts of the Empire and from European members of the United Nations.

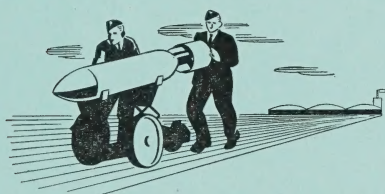
R.A.F. schools in Canada will continue more closely integrated with the plan than before. All new schools will

come under the plan to provide a single pool of trained airmen.

Operational training in Canada will be on an expanded scale. Because of this and of the training in Canada of more pupils from the United Kingdom more English airdromes will be cleared for offensive action.

Herald of Things To Come

THE devastation of Cologne marked a new phase of the air offensive against the Axis. It was termed by Prime Minister Churchill a herald of things to come, and it



was the first time that the R.A.F. had used 1,000 planes a night. More and greater raids have been promised by the Bomber Command.

More than 1,000 Canadian airmen participated in the raid on Cologne out of the 6,000 aircrew personnel involved. In the following aerial smash at Essen and other targets in Germany and occupied territory, Canadian airmen played an equally prominent part.

The Royal Canadian Air Force is already an important part of the air forces which are assaulting the Axis. With the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan sending its flood of trained airmen to Britain and other theatres of war the proportion is growing rapidly. There are more than 115,000 now in the R.C.A.F. and every month about 4,000 more men are added to the force.

Emphasis has been placed on defensive preparations since Japan's entry into the war. Out of an estimated expenditure of \$585,000,000 this year, \$247,000,000 will be used to strengthen Canada's home air defences. A further \$42,000,000 is to pay for defensive airdromes in Canada.

Under the new British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, Canada's home air defences are fully provided for, while overseas the number of R.C.A.F. squadrons is to be rapidly increased.

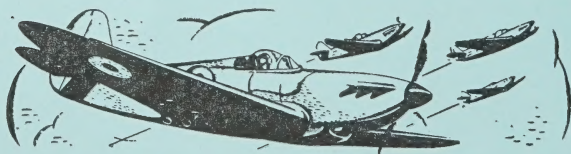
To Group Canadians

At present there are 22 R.C.A.F. squadrons overseas. The majority of these are in Britain, but there is one in the Far East and another squadron in the Near East. Thousands of Canadian airmen are also distributed among hundreds of R.A.F. units in every theatre of war.

From now on Canadian airmen to be attached to the R.A.F. will be posted to units where Canadians are serving and the overseas headquarters of the R.C.A.F. will exercise much greater control over all its own personnel.

An R.C.A.F. bomber group is to be organized with Canadian airmen and ground crews. R.C.A.F. officers will be attached to R.A.F. bomber group headquarters for experience. Where possible, Canadian fighter stations will be set up to be commanded and manned by Canadians. There will also be all-Canadian squadrons of the Coastal Command and to co-operate with the Canadian Army overseas.

In the first year of its operation, the Air Cadet League of Canada enlisted 15,000 youths for elementary aviation training. By the end of its second year the League expects to have a strength of 50,000.



Guarding the Sealanes

IN THE North Atlantic Canadian destroyers and corvettes continue their unremitting fight against German and Italian submarines, which in ever-increasing numbers are attacking United Nations shipping. German submarines can now leave their European bases, cross the Atlantic, prey on Allied shipping in the Western Atlantic and return to their bases without refuelling. U-boat attacks have been carried into the St. Lawrence River, a development which was forecast by the Chief of Naval Staff.



As the enemy improves the speed and striking power of his U-boats, the R.C.N. must keep pace and outstrip these improvements if it is to protect the convoys in its charge. The Royal Canadian Navy is at present a convoy navy, composed of protective craft such as destroyers, corvettes, minesweepers, motor torpedo boats and smaller craft. To counter the Axis extension of undersea warfare the R.C.N. is continuing to expand rapidly.

Since the outbreak of war the Navy has been increased 30 times in ships to more than 400, and 18-fold in men to 33,000. By March 31, 1943, it is expected there will be more than 500 ships in action with 44,000 officers and ratings to man them.

Navy Greatly Expanded

In the present year the cost of Canadian naval operations is estimated at \$260,000,000 which is twice as much as spent in the previous two and one-half years. The increased appropriation indicates the substantial increase in the strength of the Navy. Main items in the estimate are: \$53,000,000 for pay and allowances; \$80,000,000 for new construction and up-keep of warships; and nearly \$22,000,000 for new bases and the maintenance of present

shore establishments. The R.C.N. has enlisted men from all parts of Canada. Most of them have come from the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, of which there are 18 divisions across the country. There are thousands of young men waiting to enlist. More than 1,100 Canadians are serving with the Royal Navy. Many Canadian merchant seamen are serving on ships of the United Nations carrying cargoes to Britain and world war theatres. More than 250 seamen from ships of Canadian registry have lost their lives at sea; another 182 are missing, and their fate has not been determined; 110 are prisoners of war.

The Navy has taken a special interest in Sea Cadets. There are more than 2,700 sea cadets in Canada, ranging in ages from 12 to 18. By the end of the present year, it is planned to increase their number to 8,000. Some of the Navy's best officers and ratings have been sea cadets. Cadet experience has shortened the time ordinarily necessary to train Navy recruits. Such pre-enlistment training is also valuable for men of the Merchant Navy.

Canadian Sailors Healthy

The health of R.C.N. personnel is well looked after. There are about 170 doctors and 40 nurses in the service. In 300,000 hospital days there have been only 23 deaths from illness. Recruits for the Navy show a high standard of health. Only 10.3% of those who have applied for enlistment have been rejected. Only 3% of enlisted men have been discharged for medical reasons.

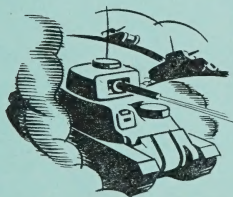
Extensive research is carried on by the Navy under the direction of eminent medical men. Dr. C. H. Best, co-discoverer of insulin, is one of the medical officers in charge of the research program. Among the problems studied are diets, seasickness, conditions which affect eyesight, fatigue among technical personnel and the effect of noise on men's nerves.

Speaking of the work of the R.C.N., Navy Minister Macdonald stated:

"It is only 32 years since the foundations of the Canadian Navy were laid. Indeed, many of the men who were Canada's first naval cadets and recruits are still on active service. It is a new navy; in comparison to the sea forces of other great nations it must be called a small navy; but it is shaping its own traditions of valour and service, and it draws much of its inspiration from the Royal Navy itself."

Poised for Offensive

SO FAR the Canadian Army has seen little action in this war except for the engagement of 2,000 Canadian troops at Hong Kong. But while the Army has been preparing for the day it could take the offensive, the sister services, the Air Force and the Navy have been seeing action. The Canadian Army has trained hard, but because it has received comparatively few headlines some misunderstanding has arisen as to its purpose and function.



The modern blitzkrieg juggernaut is not born overnight. The faultless precision of a victorious land force is the result of years of preparation. For the intricate manoeuvres of land forces, the wheeling of tanks and armoured units, the co-operation of all these units with air support and infantry require time and thorough training.

In two and three-quarter years since war began Canada has had the time necessary to build up a modern, hard-hitting army. It has been able to supply equipment to these forces second to none. It has given them training which will enable them to face any enemy with confidence.

The People's Army

Armies must wait for the time when strategy dictates their use but waiting armies cannot win wars.

The purpose of an army is to meet and destroy the enemy. Air power cannot do that by itself. Nor can naval power. They can be invaluable adjuncts to land forces, but they cannot replace the Army.

The men of the Canadian Army have chafed at inaction. But they have stood ready in many danger areas and their presence in great force in England has lessened the risk of invasion.

The Canadian Army's long period of preparation and training may soon be ended by large scale offensive action. In the invasion forces Canadian soldiers will fight in the vanguard.

The Canadian Army is a people's army and Canadian soldiers will fight with added determination if they have the confidence of all Canadians and know that the will to defeat the Axis is stronger than ever at home.

To tell Canadians about the army in which their sons, husbands or brothers are serving, the week of June 29 to July 5 has been specially designated. A national program has been laid down, which will be augmented by local events in every military district. The general program will include features of interest to all. There will be parades, demonstrations and visits to army camps. Theatres will present army films and display army equipment in their lobbies. The radio will carry special Army Week programs.



Industry in Action

FROM July 14, 1939, to April 30, 1942, war contracts and commitments totalling \$4,082,727,233 have been made by the Canadian Government for Canada, the United Kingdom and other governments. This money, greater than the pre-war gross debt of the Dominion Government, is being spent on ships, tanks, planes, guns, shells and hundreds of other weapons and materials of modern war. Commitments for capital assistance to war industries on Canadian and British account are in excess of \$600,000,000.



The production of aircraft, most modern of major war weapons, is immeasurably greater than before the war. In the four pre-war years, the average number of employees in the aircraft industry was 1,000. There were eight aircraft plants and two overhaul shops. Fewer than 40 planes were produced yearly.

Now, personnel is 40 times pre-war levels, and is being increased at the rate of 2,000 monthly. Output has been raised to 400 planes a month. Production has been reduced to nine types, ranging from light training planes to four-engined long-range bombers. The overhaul and repair program has developed into a major industry. There are 30 plants rebuilding, checking and repairing the thousands of planes in service.

250,000 Military Vehicles

In the manufacture of military vehicles Canadian plants have not been surpassed by any other branch of war production. More than 250,000 vehicles of all descriptions have been shipped, and they have proved their efficiency and durability in many theatres of war. More than 30,000 men are employed building 100 kinds of military vehicles,

including 12 types of workshops, three types of wireless trucks, four types of ambulances, three types of fire trucks, universal carriers, scout cars, reconnaissance cars, armoured cars, and 90 types of troop and ammunition transports, artillery tractors, tenders and cranes. Sufficient universal carriers are being turned out by one plant to equip a battalion in one day, and enough in two weeks to outfit an infantry division.

Two types of tanks are being made. The "Ram" weighs as much as a railway freight car, and is an offensive weapon of considerable striking power. The "Valentine" is being shipped to Russia in considerable quantities.

Nine types of guns and 11 types of carriages or mountings are being produced in Canada. Eleven plants have made their first shipment since the beginning of the year, and several of these types are already in service. These include a new type of 4-inch naval gun, a 12-pounder naval gun, naval mountings, anti-tank guns, 3.7 anti-aircraft guns and mountings, 2-inch bomb throwers, Boys anti-tank rifles and Sten machine carbines.

Other types which have been made for some time are: 25-pounder artillery guns and carriages, two types of tank guns and mountings, two types of anti-tank guns and carriages, and numerous types of small arms.

Guns and Small Arms

Tens of thousands of Bren guns and Browning aircraft machine guns have been delivered, as well as substantial quantities of Lee-Enfield .303 rifles. Production of the latter is being increased at the rate of 4,000 monthly. It is expected the government-owned factory producing them will reach capacity in August. Sten machine carbine output is large and the rate of production is being raised at the rate of a thousand or more each month.

In addition to these weapons, Canadian plants are turning out a wide variety of special radio equipment and accessories, such as firing mechanisms for naval ships.

Over a million shells are coming out of plants in the country every month. Nearly a billion rounds of small arms ammunition are produced in a year. There are 21 different types of shells of 14 calibres, ranging from 37 millimeter armour-piercing shot to 7.2-inch shells. A large variety and quantity of shell components are made—eight types of fuses, 12 types of cartridge cases, two types of gaines, and five types of primers. Also in production are 500-pound aerial bombs, practice bombs, depth charges, anti-tank mines, rifle grenades, pyrotechnics of 50 basic types, and numerous other munitions.

Chemicals and Explosives

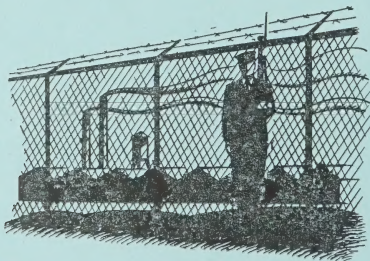
Apart from the expenditure of private capital the Dominion has spent nearly \$100,000,000 in constructing plants for the production of small arms and heavy ammunition, together with the facilities for providing raw materials for these plants. There are 40 plants engaged in the manufacture of shells, and numerous others in the making of components.

The explosives and chemicals program has involved a capital expenditure of \$125,00,000. Many large plants have been erected in all parts of the Dominion, and the industry now employs more than 40,000 men and women. An entirely new industry for filling shells has been created. Full scale production has been reached at these plants. Nearly every plant in the program has exceeded its planned objective, and the number of projects and types of output have been revised upward on several occasions. These plants now supply the requirements of domestic filling plants and export large quantities to Great Britain, other parts of the Empire and the United States.

Present monthly output of chemicals and explosives runs into tens of thousands of tons. In six months Canada now produces more explosives than it did from 1914 to 1918. Many new projects have been started recently. Of the 34 projects now under way, 25 are operating and nine are scheduled to start production before the end of the year. Of the 25 plants producing, 12 are major undertakings. Three are explosive plants, three are shell-filling units, one is engaged in fuse-filling, three are making ammonia, another a special chemical, while another is producing sulphuric acid.

Shipbuilding Program

Canada's shipbuilding program is still in process of expansion. Total orders for all kinds of ships are valued at more than \$550,000,000. There are two major shipyards in full operation and 17 are still being expanded. More than 40,000 men and women are employed in these yards. Since work commenced, more than 200 combat vessels have been launched and work is proceeding on another 700 units, including destroyers, corvettes, minesweepers, fast patrol boats and other types of craft. Orders for a variety of small craft amount to \$8 millions. Extensive repair facilities have been provided at a cost of \$5 millions. One 10,000-ton cargo vessel is coming down the shipways every four days. The merchant program calls for the construction of 172 vessels at an estimated cost of \$325,000,000. They are 10,000 tons deadweight, except for 18 vessels of 4,700 tons.



Manpower Program

The mobilization of human resources, of manpower and woman power, for a total war effort is far more complicated than is yet generally realized. It is not merely a question of raising men for the army, which was the main problem in the last war.

It should not be forgotten that Canada has only eleven and a half million people, of whom a considerable proportion are children or old people who cannot engage in active war service. From our limited population we must provide:

1. Men and women to perform the essential services without which life could not go on; such as the manufacture and distribution of the necessities of life, essential transportation over great distances, and the production of food for our own people.

2. Men and women to produce food, not only for our own people and our own armed forces, but also to help feed the people of Britain and other allied countries which cannot produce all the food they need for themselves.

3. Men and women to produce the machines and munitions of war for Canada, for Britain, and for the other United Nations.

4. Men and women for service in all three of the armed forces.

All these manpower needs must be satisfied from one manpower pool. It is important always to remember that the total manpower is limited. If too many men are taken from one service there will not be enough left for some other service. All manpower demands must be kept in balance.

Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King.

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